

## In the Specification

Please replace paragraph [001] with the following amended paragraph:

[001] This application ~~claims priority is a~~ divisional of U.S. Application Patent No. 09/435,657, filed on November 8, 1999 ~~7,099,316, issued August 29, 2006, entitled~~ “Photonic Home Area Network,” which is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 5,983,068, issued November 9, 1999, entitled “Photonic Home Area Network,” the contents of which are incorporated by reference herein.

Please replace paragraph [027] with the following amended paragraph:

[027] Figure 8 is a flow chart diagram of a program executed on the head-end communications circuit and the set-top box circuit; [[and]]

After paragraph [027], please insert the following new paragraph:

[027.1] Figure 9 is a redundant-path roof-top unit in accordance with another embodiment; and

Please replace paragraph [028] with the following amended paragraph:

[028] Figure [[9]] 10 is [[an]] a schematic illustration of a multimedia network card ~~second embodiment~~ having a transmission redundancy scheme.

After paragraph [072], please insert the following new paragraph:

[072.1] Referring to Fig. 10, there is illustrated a multimedia network card 400 including a first deserializer 408, a receiver 410 coupled to the first deserializer, a decoder 412 in communication with the receiver, and a first serializer 409 coupled to the receiver. The deserializer 408 is coupled to a serial data stream 200, and is adapted to convert the serial data stream to a parallel data stream representing a plurality of data of the serial data

stream. The receiver 410 has a relational code adapted to determine whether an address field of the parallel data stream designates local distribution. The decoder 412 has a virtual channel filter adapted to filter the address field to route the data packet to at least one data port. The serializer 409 is adapted to convert an output data stream from the receiver 410 into an output serial data stream. The card 400 may further comprise an incorporator 420 coupled to the decoder 412, a second serializer 422 coupled to the incorporator, and a second deserializer 424 coupled to the incorporator such that the incorporator is adapted to provide a redundant receiver function to the receiver 410. The incorporator 420 is adapted to insert an address value having a relational code and a virtual channel code in a data input from at least one data port, and to insert the data input into the data stream.